

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on January 4, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 20.

5 Claims 1 – 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent 6,131,552 (Paielli et al.).

Amendments made to the claims of the subject patent application are identified above.

Applicants respectfully direct Examiner's attention to the Paielli et al. patent, particularly to Figure 1. Also, applicants respectfully direct Examiner's attention the subject patent application, particularly to Figures 2 and 5, and to the description in the subject patent application which begins at line 21 of page 16 and continues to line 25 of page 17.

The distinct differences between the Paielli et al. patent and the subject invention can be seen by comparing Figure 1 of the Paielli et al. patent to Figure 5 of the subject patent application. More specifically, Examiner's attention is directed to the pressure sensor 34 in Figure 5 of the subject patent application and its location in conjunction with the outlet port 14 of the regulator 150. In comparison, Examiner's attention is also directed to Figure 1 of the Paielli et al. patent which clearly shows its "supply line 17" at the outlet of the pressure regulator 16 and at the inlet of the mixer 18 which clearly illustrates no device that can provide a pressure sensing signal relating to the pressure at the outlet of the pressure regulator 16. At this same relative position, but with reference to the subject invention in Figure 5 of the subject patent application, the pressure sensor 34 is disposed between the regulator 150 and the mixer 100. It is therefore evident that the Paielli et al. patent has no way to provide information to its electronic control unit 30, or microprocessor, relating to the pressure in line 17 which is shown in Figure 1 of the Paielli et al. patent.

25 The Paielli et al. patent describes various sensors (i.e. those identified by reference numerals 22, 24, 26, and 28), but these sensors are not positioned or configured to provide information relating to the output pressure in line 17 at the outlet port of the pressure regulator 16. This is clearly shown in Figure 1 of the Paielli et al. patent.

In clear contradistinction to the teaching of the Paielli et al. patent, the subject invention provides the pressure sensor 34 at the outlet port 14 of the regulator 150. This pressure sensor 34 is connected in signal communication, by line 98, to the engine control unit 24 and its microprocessor.

The claims of the subject patent application, as shown above, have been amended to particularly focus on this difference between the Paielli et al. patent and the subject invention. For example, claim 1 has been amended to contain the limitations previously contained in claims 2 and 4. Accordingly, claims 2 and 4 have been canceled and claims 3 and 5 have been amended 5 to be dependent on claim 1 rather than on claims 2 and 4, respectively, as originally filed.

Claim 10 has been amended to contain the limitations previously contained in claims 11 and 13. Accordingly, claims 11 and 13 have been canceled and claim 14 has been amended to be dependent on claim 10 rather than on claim 13 as originally filed.

Claim 17 has been amended to contain the limitation previously contained in claim 19. 10 Accordingly, claim 19 has been canceled and claim 20 has been amended to be dependent on claim 17 rather than on claim 19.

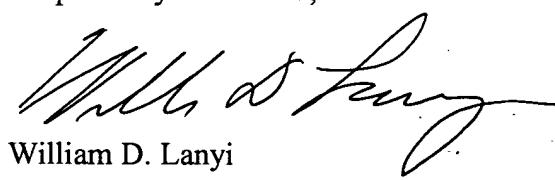
As amended, all of the claims of the subject patent application now describe the pressure sensor 34 at the outlet port 14 of the regulator and the connection between that pressure sensor 34 and the microprocessor of the engine control unit 24. Applicants respectfully contend that 15 this places the remaining claims in condition for allowance.

Applicants intend to provide formal drawings after receipt of the Notice of Allowance to replace the originally filed drawings which, although determined by the Examiner to be suitable for prosecution, are informal.

In view of the changes made to the claims of the subject patent application and in further 20 view of the above discussion, applicants respectfully request Examiner's reconsideration of the subject patent application and expeditious allowance of claims 1, 3, 5 – 10, 12, 14 – 18, and 20.

Respectfully Submitted,

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